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The Donald Family

The Donald Family

With Notes on Related Families

By

Donald Gordon

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TO

G. M. G.

BUT FOR WHOM THIS BOOK
WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN

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Preface

THESE pages are chiefly based on tradition: an attempt at accuracy has nevertheless been made, by criticism and confirmation, wherever possible. References to parish registers may be depended upon. It is believed that further data can be obtained, if at all, only by an extended search in the local records of Scotland. A summary of those already examined is given in Appendix A. Communication has been had with every one who seemed likely to have pertinent information. Acknowledgement of help thus received is made in the text and notes.

D. G.

The Donalds

Introductory Note

THE Donalds are supposed to have come originally from the west of Scotland, and in common with the MacDonalds, to have had Glencoe for their early home." *

Our own branch of the family is from Forfarshire. Just when they settled here we do not know, but tradition has it that for many generations they have been "on the land." † The earliest local reference to them yet discovered is the following entry from the parish register of Cortachy and Clova: "1667 May 2nd. Andrew Donald in Kinrowe had a child baptised Jene."

* D. Laird Donald of London.

† "That phrase denotes a higher degree of respectability than that of those roisterous clansmen who rallied round a robber-chief and, in return for their thieving, were supported by him." (D. LAIRD DONALD.) It may be added, with equal truth, that the phrase *connotes* less romance.

The Kirk o' Forfar

Alan Donald

Great-Grandfather of William C. Donald

ALAN * DONALD, the first of our line whose name we know, is said to have been "employed on the estate of the Earl of Airlie" † —whether at Airlie Castle or at Cortachy (both of them seats of the Ogilvies) does not appear. He attended his unfortunate laird ‡ as piper on the disastrous field of Culloden Moor, § where, on the 16th of April, 1746, the fortunes of so many Scotchmen were made or marred. In his own case, however, the stake does not seem to have been a great one; all that he is known to have possessed was good "wind" and a bagpipe, and both he carried off in safety. He could have been little more than a lad at the time, for he afterwards piped merrily away for many a year, and is remem-

* The name was thus given by William C. Donald of Andover, Mass. "Geordie" Donald, his brother, had it "Allan Stuart" (see *Poems, Ballads and Songs* by G. W. Donald, Arbroath, T. Buncle, 5th ed., p. vi). It must be remembered, however, that this worthy rhymester did not always confine his imagination to his poesy, and the "Stuart" may have been an afterthought.

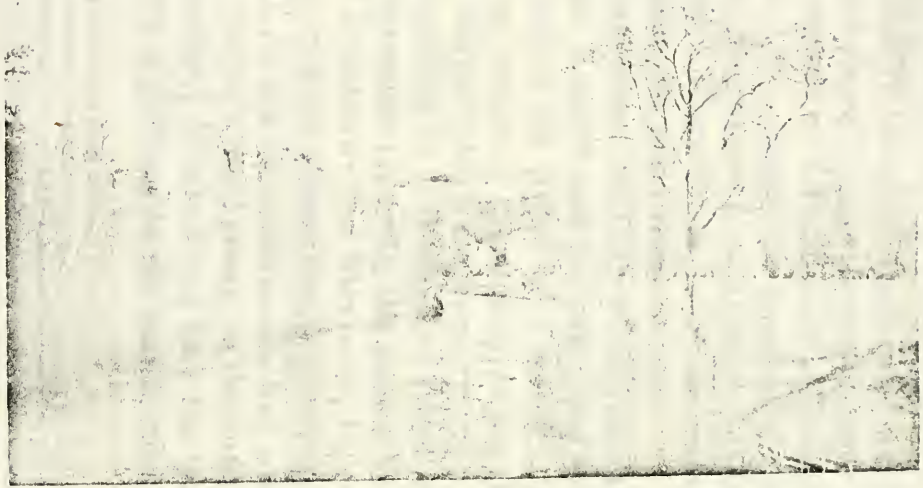
† *Poems*, &c., by G. W. Donald, p. vi.

‡ "David, Lord Ogilvie, fifth Earl of Airlie, joined Prince Charles at Edinburgh in 1745 with 600 men, principally of the Ogilvie clan. He marched to Derby, fought at Falkirk and Culloden, after which he retired to Norway, where he was made a prisoner, but escaped to Sweden and became an officer in the French service." *The Scottish Clans and their Tartans* by W. & A. K. JOHNSTON, Edinburgh, 1892, 2d ed., p. 82.

§ *Poems*, &c., by G. W. Donald, p. vi.

bered to have earned the dignified title of "musician."* He was buried in the old Presbyterian churchyard in Forfar, halfway down the southwestern slope of the hill,* but there is nothing left to mark the spot.

* Statement of William C. Donald.



Tannadice Church and South Esk River
From the South

Andrew Donald

Grandfather of William C. Donald

ANDREW DONALD, Alan's son,* was married about 1780 to Janet Rickard. The parish register of Kirriemuir,† under date of July 10, 1750, records the baptism of "Janet Rickard, daughter of John Rickard of Hiltoun of Logie." There seems to be no reason to doubt that this entry refers to her.

During at least the first few years after their marriage, Andrew and his wife lived in various parts of the parish of Tannadice. The following entries of their children are there found: Margaret, baptized April 27, 1783, the parents residing in Auchnagrey; Isobel, baptized September 11, 1785, the parents residing in Clepintown; and Alexander, baptized June 23, 1788, the parents residing in Westside of Coull. At one time the family had a little cottage (one of a small group) in the outskirts of Tannadice.‡ While living here the father was a sort of *factotum* to the parish minister,

* Very likely there were other children in the family, but their names are not remembered. The following record from the parish of Forfar may have reference to a brother and nephew of Andrew's: "1781 March 23. David Donald, tenant in Aughterforfar, and Martha Shepherd, his spouse, had their child's name registered called Alexander, being born the 22nd."

† J. M. Barrie's *Thrums*.

‡ "This cottage was destroyed about 1830." WILLIAM C. DONALD.

Rev. Mr. Buist.* The following pun is the only thing now remembered of this service. By way of explanation it should be said that "Doanut" was at that time a frequent pronunciation of the name Donald. Andrew was one day bringing in a basket of potatoes. "What hae ye there?" asked the minister. Answered the jocose Andrew, "A *buist* [box] fu' o' 'taties." "Why did ye no' fi' it wi' *doughnuts?*" flashed back the man of God.

Later on, the family moved to Berry Muir Head Quarry, near West Craig, parish of Forfar, where the father worked, getting slate, paving-stones, &c. William C. Donald could remember visiting them there. He slept with his grandfather, and, from a scathing lecture which one of his aunts received that night,

*The Rev. Mr. Buist had originally been a professor at St. Andrew's. St. Andrew was supposed to be the patron saint of the parish of Tannadice as well. This fact was used as a pretext for Buist's removal thither from the University, where his crotchety disposition had made him unpopular. He was, however, a scholar and a man of wit. On one occasion when the Presbytery met at Forfar and a question of accounts came up, one of the members remarked, "We've got a cipher too many." "I've always thought so," retorted Buist, "since you joined our number." In the summer-time he used to divide his parish into diets, the members of which he summoned at different times for religious examination. At Craig Eassie there was a miller named Michael Smith, who was a constant fault-finder and controversialist. Once when his name was called at a meeting of his diet some one answered, "Michael's no' here." "I'm no' surprised," was the sarcastic comment, "when the hens stop picking they *aye* go to roost."

Buist was very lame, and when riding horseback had to be strapped to the saddle.

got a lasting impression of the old man's "dourness."

The mother may have been a person of surpassing virtues; unfortunately, her grandson * remembered her merely as "a cross monkey!" She died about 1824, and her husband two years later.† Both were buried in the old churchyard in Forfar, the latter in the same grave as his father Alan; but although William C. Donald maintained that "a fine stone was put up to them," no trace of it has ever been found.

* William C. Donald.
† Statement of William C. Donald.

Mary Laird
1847(?)

Alexander Donald
1847(?)

Alexander Donald and Mary Laird

Parents of William C. Donald

ALEXANDER DONALD, Andrew's son, was born in Westside of Coull, parish of Tannadice, and was baptized June 23, 1788.* About the year 1809† he married Mary Laird, daughter of David Laird‡ and Isobel, or "Tibbie," Shepherd. She was born at Newdyke, parish of Dunnichen, April 27, 1789, and was baptized two days later.§

Excursus — SHEPHERD

In reference to Isobel Shepherd's ancestry the following is offered:

I

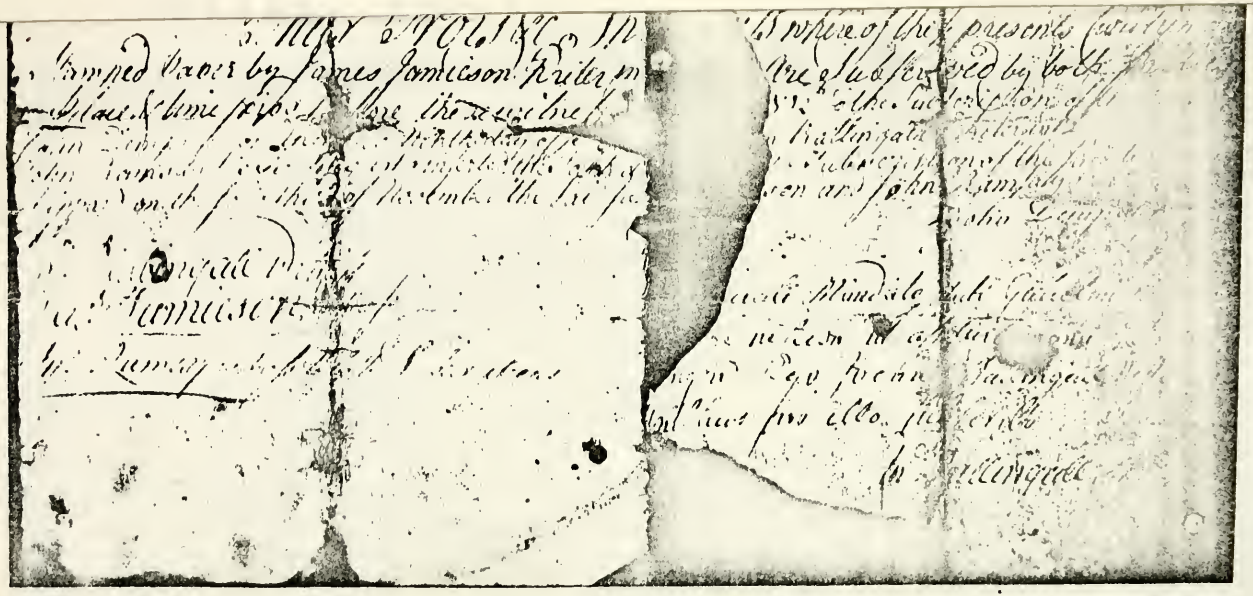
IT is tradition among her family that the Shepherds have been identified with Newdyke for over one hundred and fifty years. The present tenant, William Shepherd, is a grandson of Isobel's brother William. In confirmation of the family tradition he exhibits a tattered lease of the premises to William Shepherd, dated 1732, and handed down

* Parish register of Tannadice.

† Statement of William C. Donald.

‡ At the time of his proclamation in 1782 (see p. 17) he is described as "of this parish" (*i.e.* Dunnichen), but no entry of his baptism can be found there. He is said to have died about 1831, aged over ninety (cf. p. 14). It is likely, then, that the following from the Forfar parish register may refer to him: "1736, November 29. David Laird in Balmashaunar had a child baptised called David." This record is succeeded by that of the baptism of a son Thomas in 1743, in which entry the father is described as a weaver.

§ Parish register of Dunnichen.



Lease of Newdyke
1732

Sett[illegible] under the ninth day of September & third of November One thousand seven hundred and thirty two years
It is agreed and finally ended Betwixt John Dempster of Dunnichlen on the one part and
William Shippard Tenant in the westmost end of the muir of Lownie on the other part as follow
th That is to Say the said John Dempster for yearly payment of the Tack duly underwritten
sells and in Tack & assedation tells to the said William Shippard his heirs Exers & Ascending Assigneys
all & Heall that his present possession in the said Muir of Lownie presently possest by himself Lying
within the Parochine of Dunnichen & Sherrisdoom of Forfar and that for the full Space of Three five or
eight years in the option of the said John Dempster from his entry which is hereby declared to have been
& begun to the Yeards & Rossall Whitsunday last and to begin to the arable land after separation from the
ground of Grant Jaibyd & thirty two years and from thence forth to be reasonably laboured & possessed by
him and his forsd during his Tack Not any Mortgagable or impediment whatsoever Which
& assedation the said John Dempster Binds & obliges him his heirs & Successors to warrant to be good
& Sufficient to the said William Shippard and his forsd all all hands & against all deadly as law
will For the which Cause said on the [illegible] the said William Shippard Binds & obliges
him his heirs & Successors Not only to good labour & manure the said lands But also Thankfully
to content pay and deliver to the said John Dempster his heirs Exers or assigns the sum of
Twenty [illegible] yearly with Year during the space forsaid of
this Tack Beginning the first years payment thereof at Whitsunday Jaibyd & thirty four years
and so forth yearly thereafter and the said William Shippard Binds & obliges him & his forsaid
to frequent the Mill of Craichy with his whole grinnable Corns and to pay the ordinary Fruitures
therefore As Also to frequent the Smiddy in the Ground of Dunnichen with the Smith work and to
pay the ordinary Bons for the same with harness & carriage & other Services in proportion to his
[illegible]
[illegible] of the forsd three or eight years if [illegible] by the said John Dempster to flit & re[illegible]
him [illegible] Barns Servants Goods & Gear furth[illegible] the forsaid possession without the [illegible]
of a regular warning or to be ejected therefrom brevi manu And hereunto Both parties Bind & [illegible]
them & their forsds reciprocally to perform the Premisses to one another And [illegible] party failing
to the party observer for willing to observe the Sum [illegible]
of mutual penalty all [illegible] performance Consenting to the Registration hereof in the [illegible]
of Council & Sessions or Ayrs competent [illegible] Decreet be interponed hereto & [illegible] Horning [illegible]
[illegible] charge & all [illegible] full execution in form [illegible] Heirs may pass hereon Forwhith
the constitute [illegible]
[illegible] Their Proxies [illegible] In [illegible] where of these presents [illegible]
stamped Paper by James Jamieson Writer [illegible] Subscribed by both [illegible]
Place & time [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] the Subscription of [illegible]
[illegible] Rattingale [illegible]
[illegible] Subscription of the [illegible]
[illegible] on the [illegible] of November the [illegible] [illegible] John Dempster
[illegible] John Dempster
[illegible] Rattingale [illegible]
[illegible] Jamieson [illegible]
[illegible] Rattingale [illegible]
[illegible] Rattingale [illegible]

Lease of Newdyke
1732

Donald said that while he was engaged to be married (1838–9) he took his prospective bride to call on "Tibbie" Shepherd. The incident was firmly fixed in his memory because the ancient dame fairly overwhelmed the maiden with good advice. He also declared that "Tibbie" died "within the year, aged 95." David Donald of Walthamstow, England, writes: "My grandmother died about 1833, aged about 90." These two statements are not exactly in harmony, but both of them would make her birth about 1743. In view of the evidence previously stated, the natural conclusion would be that this testimony, although from two sources, was erroneous. There are, however, two somewhat disturbing entries in the parish register of Forfar, *viz.:* "1741 October 4th. Alexander Shippart, weaver in Lone-end of Lower, had his child baptised called Anne." "1743 August 28. Alexander Shippart in ground of Lowre had his child baptised called Isobel." Here we find in an adjacent parish an Isobel whose birth is the very date suggested by the above statements, having a sister Anne, or "Nannie," and of appropriate age to marry the David Laird (born 1736) referred to on p. 11 n. ‡. These coincidences make us critical of our previous conclusion. Nevertheless, the following strong argument may be made against the proposition that this Forfar Isobel is ours: (1) It would make her a bride at thirty-nine and the mother of her youngest child at fifty-one. (2) No record of her brother William nor of her several sisters can be found at Forfar from 1735 to 1760. (3) It would violate family tradition and the testimony of the old lease.

It seems sufficiently established, then, that our Isobel was of the Newdyke family. This involves the assumption that William C. Donald and his brother David were mistaken as to her age. If that assumption be correct their error may be explained by the fact that she was lame, and so was likely to appear older than she really was. It is also possible that they confused her age with her husband's. It

is believed that David Laird died about 1831. If the Forfar entry (see p. 11 n. ‡) refers to his baptism, he would have been exactly ninety-five years old at his death. The pedigree thus constructed is as follows:

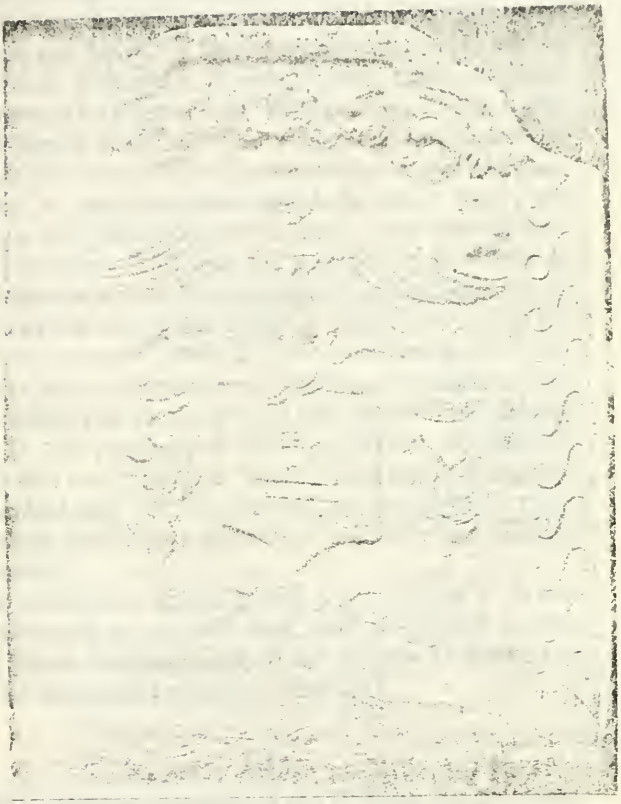
1753
JAMES SHEPHERD = AGNES MURDOW
tenant of Newdyke as early as 1755
ISOBEL SHEPHERD
1757–1838-9

II

OUR next step is to find the parentage of James Shepherd. We have seen that he was proclaimed in 1753 and was in possession of Newdyke as early as 1755. The old lease shows that this farm was demised to a William Shepherd in 1732. The natural inference is that this William was the father of James. In the pretty little churchyard of Dunnichen there is a curious old tombstone to "William Shepherd who departed this life the 6 of July 1748, aged 73 years. Also Alexander, Margaret, Elspet, Elizabeth and Janet, their children. Also Agnes, Elizabeth and James Shepherd, grandchildren by William, his eldest son. Also Agnes and Katharine, grandchildren by Alexander, second son." At the top of the stone is a human face flanked by angelic wings. Between two rows of sculptured figures is the representation of a hand-loom, with reed, shuttle and bobbin. There are also numerous initials which cannot be identified, some rather vile Latin, and the statement that it was "Erected by Isobel Moffet his wife, and William, Alexander, and James Shepherd, his lawful children," in 1750. The parish register helps us to construct the following pedigree:

1702
WILLIAM SHEPHERD = ISOBEL MOFFET
of Dunnichen 1675–1748 | *of Dunnichen*

MARGRET 1704 | ISOBEL 1706 | WILLIAM *1st son* (JAMES) | ALEXANDER *2d son* | JAMES *3d son* | ELSPET | ELIZABETH | JANET



Tombstone of William Shepherd
in Dunnichen Churchyard

The parish register of Forfar has this entry, which probably refers to the two last-named daughters: "1715 March 31st. William Shepherd had twin children baptised called Elizabeth and Janet." There is nothing further in the records which is material. It seems pretty clear, therefore, that James, the third son of William, was the one who married Agnes Murdow. The younger James apparently died early (cf. the tombstone inscription, *supra*). His father, William, Jr., could not have been born before 1708; and to have a son James married in 1753 must himself have married by 1730. If he was the possessor of Newdyke in 1732, it seems almost inconceivable that the births of his children should not be on record in Dunnichen. If, on the other hand, it was William, Sr., who took the lease of Newdyke, the lack of entries of *his* children, after the two oldest, is explainable on the ground that he had not definitely settled in the parish prior to 1732. Again, William C. Donald said that "Tibbie's" mother died about 1828, aged one hundred and five. That would put her birth in 1723. She would hardly have married a man ten years younger than herself.

The connection of this family with "Tibbie's" is further evidenced by the fact that next to the old stone is buried James Shepherd, son of her brother William, and father of the present tenant of Newdyke.

III

THE probable parentage of the William Shepherd who married Isobel Moffet may be traced in the parish register of Forfar: "1661 May 18th. William Shippert in this congregation and ——in the parish of Dinnichene gave up their names to be proclaimed tomorrow, Sunday, *pro primo*." This entry is succeeded by the following baptisms: Agnes, 1662, in Louer; John, 1663; Kathrine, 1666; —— 1667; Margaret, 1670; William, 1671; Jean, 1672; Alexander, 1673; and another William (the elder

having doubtless died), November 26, 1676. The baptism of this last William accords closely with the birth of the William buried at Dunnichen, and the fact that his mother was from that parish may explain his going there.

It is submitted, therefore, that our Isobel Shepherd's ancestry, according to evidence and probability, was as follows:

1661
WILLIAM SHEPHERD = _____
of Lower, in Forfar | *of Dunnichen*
b. about 1635

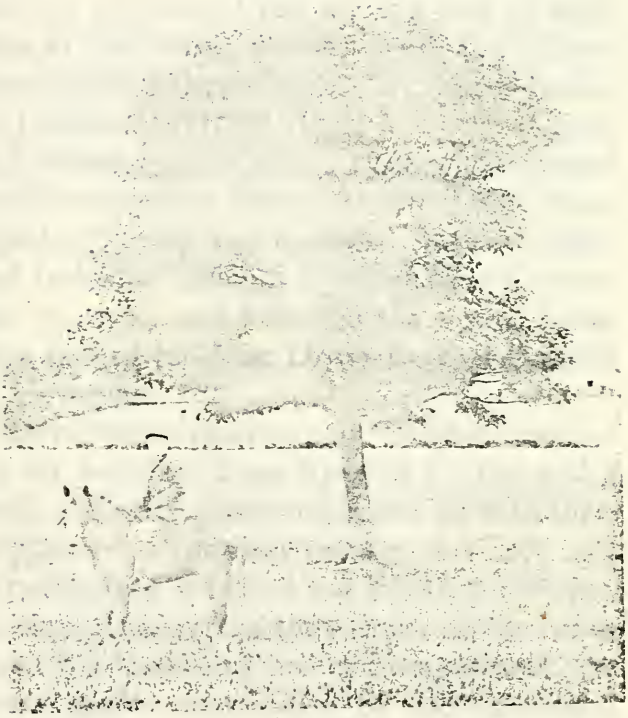
1702
WILLIAM SHEPHERD = ISOBEL MOFFET
of Dunnichen | *of Dunnichen,*
bap. Nov. 26, 1676 | *living in* 1750
leased Newdyke, 1732
d. July 6, 1748

1753
JAMES SHEPHERD = AGNES MURDOW
of Newdyke, Dunnichen | *of Dunnichen*
b. about 1716 | *b. about* 1723
d. aet. 105

1782
ISOBEL SHEPHERD = DAVID LAIRD
of Newdyke, Dunnichen
bap. June 12, 1757
d. 1838-9

Henry Paton, M.A., of Edinburgh, an expert genealogist, to whom this matter was referred, reported upon it as follows: "I think the line is established from Newdyke and I think very probably to the William in Forfar who appears in 1661. . . . I doubt much if we could get any fuller information than that which is now obtained and which is indeed, I think, conclusive."*

* Since the above was tabulated, without suggestion to him of any names, David Shepherd of Elizabeth, Colorado, has written: "My father, James Shepherd, had in his possession at Newdyke old leases of the farm for four generations. They ran from father to son as follows: William, James, William ('Tibbie's' brother) and James (my father).... Referring to my great-grandmother's name, I think it was Murdock, for I remember my father's speaking of it." A similar statement has also been received from David's brother, James Shepherd of Timaru, New Zealand.



Newdyke.

One of the latest generation of Shepherds.
The field in the foreground was formerly
West Drum Park.

David Laird and his bride were both described as "of Dunnichen" when they were proclaimed July 21, 1782.* Their first home is said to have been at Bodie Mire,† in the parish of Fotheringham. Whether this be true or not, they lived all the rest of their lives in the former parish, where the following records of their children are found: James, in Letham, baptized April 2, 1784; Agnes, in Letham, born May 12, 1786, and baptized the following day; Mary, in "New Dike," born April 27, 1789, and baptized two days later; and Isobel in Muir of Lownie, born December 15, 1794, and baptized the 19th.‡ Later they moved to West Drum Park, just north of Newdyke.

David was a weaver, and "Tibbie" used to fill his bobbins. They lived in a "but and a ben," and were somewhat better off than their neighbours. Notwithstanding this fact, the only chimney they had was a hole in the roof. In one of the rooms they slept; in the other stood his loom and her spinning-wheel, the latter made memorable by her grandson "Geordie:"

* Parish register of Dunnichen.

† This spelling is found in G. W. Donald's *Poems*, &c., p. 61 n. Possibly it is to be identified with the "Bottomire" shown on the map.

‡ "One of the daughters married James Malcolm of Fotheringham, a gamekeeper, and had a large family." WILLIAM C. DONALD.

"*My Granny's wheel! troth, there she sits!*
I thocht she'd a' been dung to bits,
While 'mang thir peats an' broken slits
O' rotten timmer,
She's huddled been oot o' our gates
This bygane simmer," &c.*

William C. Donald used to say that the following stanzas were in strict accord with his own remembrance:

"*When auld age gart her make her mane,*
An' a' her maughts war nearly gane,—
. . . . . .
This wheel ayont the ingle stane,
Aye sat beside her.

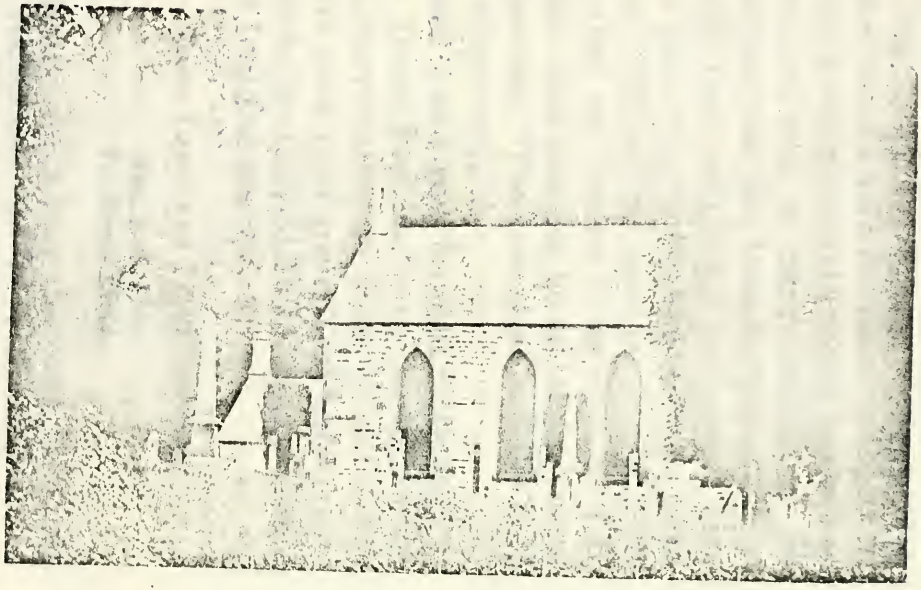
"*An' though she couldna spin a hank,*
Wi' her the younkers doughtna prank,
Or hiltie† *drawn across their shank,*
She tauld them free,
Wad be their doom, an' a' their thank,
For siccan glee."

Nevertheless, he used also to tell of the many good times he had at her house, especially at Christmas, and of the wonderful soup she made.

David Donald writes: "My grandfather and name-father died before 'Tibbie' some years. He had to undergo a surgical opera-

* G. W. Donald's *Poems*, &c., p. 23.

† A crutch or staff, made necessary by her lameness.



Dunnichen Churchyard

tion, but did not long survive. . . . He was rather tall and thin, and he was a good man, kind and loving to all, and a peacemaker. 'Tibbie' was of a different temper altogether; her policy was home-rule, which has still to be reckoned with in many localities at the present day; but they lived happily together, although their politics did not agree. I have here a letter from my brother George, dated June 2, 1886, and he mentions in that letter that when my brother Peter died in 1830, 'Tibbie' came into our house leaning on her staff, and said, 'The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away.' "

David Laird and his wife both died at West Drum Park and were buried in the Dunnichen churchyard, although there is no stone to mark their grave. They left a record of their happy married life on some crockery, which bore the inscription:

DAVID LAIRD AND TIBBIE SHEPHERD

May Love Abide
Till Death Divide.

The plates which bore the verse have long since disappeared, but the sentiment remains.

Alexander Donald, at the time of his marriage, was a farm servant at West Craig, about

two miles from Forfar. Here * his eldest son, James, and two daughters, Isobel and Mary, were born. A second son,† born March 7, 1816, was named William Cooper ‡ in honour of the owner of the place. In 1820 the family moved to the neighbouring estate of Westfield. The heir to this estate, Patrick Webster, was then a young boy in the care of his aunt. Alexander, beside working as a ploughman, was given general charge of the place. In 1831 he "took in lease the small farm of West Drum Park," § in Dunnichen. David Laird and his wife were then in possession of it. Alexander did not disturb them, but built himself another cottage. ||

"Geordie" Donald refers to Mary Laird in his poem "My Mither's Cruzie." ** Elsewhere he writes: "My mother taught me to read at the foot of her spinning-wheel, and in the evenings my father taught me to write and cypher. His apparatus and mode of instruction

* "The cottage where he lived was destroyed about 1821." WILLIAM C. DONALD.

† The other children were: Peter, George, Alexander, Jessie and David. For notes on all the children except William Cooper, see Appendix B.

‡ The parish register of Forfar has it "Couper."

§ G. W. Donald's *Poems*, &c., p. vi.

|| William C. Donald's comment was: "He knew they wouldn't live long and so he let them stay. I suppose they would be called 'tenants at sufferance.'"

** G. W. Donald's *Poems*, &c., p. 2.

Alexander Donald
1860 (?)

were rather of a homely complexion. Blackboards and chalk were not then in vogue, but a long pointed stick, charred by the fire on the one end, so as to make it operate on the broad hearthstone, answered our purpose equally well. My father had a great love for poetry and even could make a rustic song himself." *

D. Laird Donald furnishes the following notes on his grandparents: "Whatever the Donalds owe to the past generation they owe to the mother, Mary Laird. She was a wonderful woman, managing the whole household and keeping track of things. The old gentleman was a strange sort of person. He would disappear for days together; it was n't drink; it was just his way.† His wife had to take care of him as well as of the children, for he would n't even buy his own shoes or be measured for a suit. Their cottage is not standing now, but you can still see the old gentleman's cherry tree. In the cottage were two rooms,‡ a kitchen, which was the living-room as well, and a parlour. All around the kitchen were box beds set into the wall, and

* G. W. Donald's *Poems*, &c., p. 32 n.

† William C. Donald doubted this statement. He said: "Though sometimes father would n't speak to a soul for days, I don't remember that he actually cleared out."

‡ William C. Donald said there was a middle room where "Geordie" kept his loom.

here the family slept. In summer-time the old gentleman had a bed in the parlour, but in winter he was glad enough to keep warm with the rest. They farmed their little patch of land and kept a horse and two or three cows."

David Shepherd sums up their characteristics thus: "Alexander Donald was a tall, muscular man, and an obliging neighbour as far as he could be. Mary Laird was straight in person and straight in principle, quiet and unassuming; nothing could beat her honesty."

David Donald writes: "My father found West Drum Park rather an up-hill job. The land was poor and had been neglected owing to grandfather and grandmother's old age and infirmities. When his lease expired he was no longer able to manage the place, and James Shepherd* took it over, pulled down the old house and all the buildings, adding it to his own farm, 'Newdyke.' My father and mother afterwards retired to a small house at Kingsmuir, a village on the way to Forfar, where father died. After this my mother lived with my oldest sister, Belle, and her husband, John MacDonald, until she died, on November 14, 1872."

The date of Alexander's death has not been preserved, but it was approximately 1864.†

* Son of "Tibbie's" brother William.

† Statement of David Shepherd.

Mary Laird
1860 (?)

Both he and his wife were buried at Dunnichen; but their graves can no longer be identified.

There are two daguerreotypes of them, not particularly attractive, but probably true to life.* Many prefer the water-colour paintings which hung in the house of their son James at Surbiton. These latter are said to have been executed by an itinerant sign-painter. Alexander has a book, presumably the Bible, clutched firmly in his left hand, while with his right he holds the bridle of his "favourite white horse," a somewhat apocryphal beast. In the rear is his one-windowed stable, shaded by two trim fir trees. Mary is backed up against the mantel-piece, on which stands a neat pot of flowers between two prints. Her hands are demurely folded and conspicuously display a wedding ring upon the middle finger of her right hand. In her lap is a letter dated "Nov. 5th, 1847,"† which, as might be expected, begins "Dear Parents."

* These daguerreotypes were obtained by William Scrimgeour of Andover. About 1860, being associated with William C. Donald in the flax business, he went to Scotland to buy machinery. While there he visited Alexander and his wife, and persuaded them to sit for their pictures in Arbroath.

† This date is some evidence of the time when the portraits were painted. William C. Donald could see no resemblance in them to either of his parents; but the address on the envelope is conclusive of their identity.

The Smarts

Thomas Smart

Grandfather of Agnes [Smart] Donald

THOMAS SMART,* of the parish of Brechin, Forfarshire, Scotland, married about 1788–90†, his cousin,‡ Jean Smart.§ The parish register contains the following entries of their children:

John, born the 13th and baptized the 18th

* No record of his birth can be found at Brechin. The parish register of Tannadice, however, contains the following: "1762 January 8th, Alexander Smart in Barnyards and his spouse Margaret Low had a child baptised named Thomas." There is also entry of a daughter Isobel, baptized January 25, 1763. This Thomas's birth is just about the time we should expect ours to have been. A process of exclusion would make it his, for no other entry in any neighbouring parish will correspond. Furthermore, it is clear that the Tannadice family moved to Brechin in 1763–4, for the register of the latter parish has entries of others of their children born and baptized there: Andrew, December 15, 1764; Alexander, July 16, 1767; Joseph, March 29, 1769; William, September 12, 1770; and Robert, December 11, 1773.

In view of the above, it is at least reasonably certain that our Thomas was the son of Alexander Smart and Margaret Low, born in Barnyards, parish of Tannadice, and baptized January 8, 1762; that he moved thence to the parish of Brechin with his parents in 1763–4, and there grew up and married. The fact that his wife was his cousin (see above) may indicate that the Smarts were originally of Brechin, or merely that there was cousinly acquaintance with those left at Tannadice.

Two other entries from the latter parish are given as possible clues to the families of Alexander Smart and Margaret Low: "1739 February 1st, Jean Low, lawful daughter of —— Low, tailor in Craigentore, baptised by Mr. John Ogilvy, minister." "1739 July 22nd, John Smairt, lawful son to Andrew Smairt, sub-tenant in Barnyards, baptised here by Mr. John Ogilvy, minister."

† Cf. ensuing entries of their children.

‡ Statement of Agnes (Smart) Donald of Andover, Mass.

§ From the entries of her children's births. In Scotland such entries always give the mother's maiden name.

of March, 1792, the father being a sub-tenant at "Moissondieu" (Maisondieu); James, born the 2d and baptized the 4th of October, 1795, "the parents residing at Mickle Keithoc;" Ann, born the 7th and baptized the 9th of September, 1797; William, born the 31st of March and baptized the 6th of April, 1800; Jean, born the 28th of April and baptized the 2d of May, 1802; Charles, born the 5th and baptized the 19th of February, 1804; and "Betty," born the 28th of April and baptized the 4th of May, 1806.* The last five were all born at Greens of Keithock, the father in each case being described as a "labourer" or "farmer."

The mother seems to have died at an early age, for by 1810 the home was broken up.† The date of the father's death has not yet been found, although at the time sufficient interest was taken in it to have a memorial card printed.‡

* James J. Smart, of Minneapolis, furnishes a list giving some of these, and in addition a David and an Alexander. He writes further: "Uncle Alexander's family are extinct. Your grandfather (William C. Donald) will confirm this, as a small portion of his estate came to father. Uncle John had two sons and a daughter, the sons about my age (*i.e.* born about 1827). I think their address was Leyes of Haliburton in Perthshire. I have been there."

† Statement of James J. Smart.

‡ This was forgotten by Agnes (Smart) Donald, although she must once have been familiar with it. James J. Smart writes: "Father had a cousin in Montrose, a printer, who printed for him a memorial card

of his father's death. It had a heavy black border around it and was folded and stitched into one volume of a two-volume pocket Bible father had, bound in kid, with flap and tuck. All I can remember of the memorial was, 'Thomas Smart died at Greens of Keithock.'" This Bible was probably lost when William Smart's house was burned down, some time after his death.

William Smart
1865 (?)

William Smart and Jean Johnston

Parents of Agnes [Smart] Donald

WILLIAM SMART, probably the fourth child* of Thomas and Jean Smart, was born at Greens of Keithock, parish of Brechin, March 31, 1800, and was baptized on the sixth day of April following.† "While he was still a small boy his mother died and he went to live with an aunt. He was put out to work for a farmer, and was badly used."‡ About 1820 he married Jean Johnston.§ The certificate of their proclamation is dated at Guthrie, and describes the groom as "of this parish" and the bride as "of the parish of Inverkeilor."‖ She was the daughter of William Johnston and Agnes Bain, born in the parish of Farnell May 13 and baptized May 19, 1798.**

William Johnston was born about 1755.†† No record of his birth can be found at Far-

* Cf. p. 28 and n.* thereon.

† Parish register of Brechin. His tombstone, in Andover, gives his birth as April 14.

‡ James J. Smart.

§ The name is sometimes, but less correctly, spelled "Johnstone."

‖ This certificate is in the possession of Alexander Smart of Perry, Iowa.

** Parish register of Farnell. The Johnston family Bible gives her birth as May 12.

†† Cf. his tombstone in Farnell churchyard. James J. Smart, who slept with him up to the time of his death (August 21, 1836), remembers that he died at the age of eighty-one.

nell,* but the neighbouring parish of Montrose has the following, which may well refer to him: "1755 September 28th. William Johnston and Christian Craig had a lawful child baptised named William."

The entry of his marriage at Farnell is as follows: "Parish of Farnell, 1797 June 18th. Contracted William Johnstone in this parish and Agnes Bain in the parish of Maryton, married June 24th." In the latter parish we find this record of Agnes Bain's baptism:† "1774 July 26th, the which day was baptised Agnes Bane, lawful daughter to Walter Bain‡ and Jean Mitchell§ in Powmouth."

* The only clue we have as to his family is the following note from James J. Smart: "He had a cousin in Arbroath who was a banker. The firm was 'Johnston & Son,' and may exist to-day."

† Also entries of her brothers and sisters: Mary, September 13, 1771; Walter, July 26, 1773; Catharine, April 20, 1777; Jean, May 26, 1779; Margaret, August 23, 1781; Helen, February 6, 1784; and James, July 11, 1786.

Walter, the oldest brother, lived at Cauldcots. James J. Smart writes: "I remember him well. I was once there on a sleety day and I tell you it was *cauld.* He was a jolly, red-faced, blustering chap. When grandfather (William Johnston) died, he became administrator of his estate and administered it all into his own pocket. His daughter married a Mr. Watson, who died not long after; his son, John Bain, went to London and got into the stationery and book business."

‡ Walter Bain's marriage must have been as early as 1770 (cf. n.†). There is no record of it at Maryton. None of the entries of his children describes his calling or condition, although one of the witnesses in 1779 is named as "David Mitchell, servant to the said Walter Bain."

§ Nothing is known of her family. A possible clue to their place of origin is the fact that in 1771, 1779 and 1781 "James Mitchell in old Montrose" was a witness to the baptism of her children.

That William Smart in this parish and Jean Johnstone in parish of Inverkeilor have been regularly proclaimed in order to Marriage and no objection offered is certified by Thos. Will Sess. Clk.

At the time of his marriage, and thereafter until his death, William Johnston was a small farmer on the Kinnaird estate.* His place was called "Tilleysoul" † and was on the road between Brechin and Farnell, not far from the latter place. Jean was his first child.‡

* "The laird of Kinnaird was Sir James Carnegie, Bart. His family had lost its earldom for participation in the Rebellion of 1745. When Victoria reached the throne she restored it. The eldest son of Sir James, also named James, was just my age (*i.e.* born in 1827). When I was a small boy the nurse used to come out of the West Gate occasionally with the laird's three children in a small cab drawn by a Newfoundland dog. She would take the baby into our house and gossip with mother. The other two and I would roll marbles." (JAMES J. SMART.) The older of these two is the present Earl of South Esk.

† The parish register has it "Tillysoil." The spelling in the text is James J. Smart's. On having the discrepancy called to his attention, he adds: "The parish register is undoubtedly right. I don't remember ever seeing the word in print except on grandfather's carts, which always had to have the name and residence of the owner. When you went to Farnell from Brechin you ought to have passed the house where I was born at the West Gate of the Deer Park. The first place south of that was Tillysoil. Then you crossed a creek which went through the wall into the Deer Park, Anderson Den Burn. A part of the original farm was included in the Deer Park when it was enclosed and I have been told that all of it has now been taken in. There was a public road on the east side of the farm. The dwelling-house and part of the buildings were on the east side of the road and formed part of the wall that enclosed the park."

‡ The Johnston family Bible, substantiated by the parish register of Farnell, gives the births of the following children besides Jean: Katherine, June 22, 1800; James, March 4, 1802; William, October 16, 1804; John, July 16, 1806; Margaret, November 4, 1808; Walter, August 20, 1811; and Helen, October 16, 1814. The taint of consumption was in this family; almost all of them died under forty, and some much younger. Their tombstones in Farnell churchyard (frequently not in accord with the family Bible) are a pathetic sight. The dates of their deaths are there given as follows: Katherine, January 12, 1831; James, March 16, 1828; William, July 2, 1844; John, January 29, 1832; Margaret, December 4, 1842; Walter, June 5, 1831; and Helen, December 6, 1818. For further notes on them see Appendix C.

Of him and his wife, James J. Smart writes as follows:

"Grandma died before grandpa. I must have been pretty young at the time. I don't know the date, but I have a distinct recollection of her taking me out of bed early one morning, wrapping me in a palm-leaf shawl, and carrying me down to her house. I remember peeping from the shawl and watching her make the turn in the road and seeing the hawthorn hedge at the corner. Some time during the next day she took me back to see my baby brother William, born December 14, 1829. I remember that once she took me in off the street where I was quarrelling with other children and made me sit at the window and watch them play. Once I was out watching father's men cutting trees in the Deer Park. They found a wild pigeon's nest with one egg in it, and I was given the egg. So I put out for grandma's. She took me in at the kitchen window and made a pancake out of it.

"Grandpa, until the very last years of his life, raised a small patch of flax which was rotted and worked up into cloth by grandma. When the household wants were provided for, the balance was apportioned to the several women of the family. Mother, being married, was cut off from the annual dividend,

Tilleysoul

1565728

and your grandmother* was substituted. Consequently when she was married she had some of her grandmother's make of linen to commence housekeeping with.† I remember the last two crops of flax grandpa raised. The one before the last was rotted in a pond (or lint pot) dug on his farm beside the Anderson Den Burn; but it had to be abandoned on account of poisoning the fish in the Deer Park fish-pond which had been finished that year. The next year they had to use ponds in the centre of pine woods about a mile and a half southeast of the bridge at Brechin. Grandpa had always put the flax in the ponds himself, but that year father would not let him. I went along too, and remember seeing it pulled out while it was green and the seed taken off with a rippling-comb.

"Grandpa had an old saddle-horse, although I never knew him to ride it or any other. It was given him by a relative who rode it at the Battle of Waterloo. The creature was so old and its teeth so poor that it was given over to the gamekeeper to be killed and cooked to the dogs the next day. In the morning, however, it was found dead.

*Agnes (Smart) Donald.

†Charlotte (Donald) Garland, of Boston, has two blankets and a tablecloth of Agnes Bain's making.

"After grandma died* I went and slept with grandpa until his death at eighty-one years of age. He had some peculiarities. One was he never ate breakfast Sunday morning until he had been to church; and during his last few years he would walk to Montrose, eight or ten miles away."

"William Smart, at the time of his marriage," writes James J. Smart, "settled on the estate of Kinnaird, just outside of the Deer Park, within forty rods of the Johnstons. He had charge of a gang of men called 'pakies' for the laird. Their duties were planting trees, cutting timber and cutting hedges, of which there were a great many on the farms of the estate. The tenants were relieved of all care of hedges, and father was practically forester. On market days, when he had grain to sell, so regular was he that aunt Margaret would have tea on the table for him when he arrived. The only refreshment he would have while he was gone was a pennyworth of gingerbread which he would purchase when he started home. Once he went out in a field and discovered a scarecrow with a hat he thought was too good for that purpose. He carried it to the house and occasionally wore

*April 29, 1831,—from her tombstone in Farnell churchyard.

it around home. By accident he put it on one Sunday morning and wore it to church, and it so annoyed him that he sat in the house with his best hat on all the afternoon.

"When I was about eight years old (*i.e.* 1835) father left there and went to Saint Ann's Cottage, about two miles west of Brechin on the road to Forfar, a small estate where he was gardener and chief bottle-washer. He was there about ten or twelve years when he went to Cairnbank, but had moved to Peebles before he migrated to America."

To William Smart and his wife were born the following children: Agnes Bain, May 20, 1821; Walter, January 17, 1823; Catharine, November 2, 1825; James Johnston, May 20, 1827; William, December 14, 1829; John, January 22, 1832; Alexander, December 4, 1835; Fannie, July 30, 1837; and Charles, August 4, 1839.*

Early in 1855† he and his wife followed their eldest daughter‡ and her family to the United States. The wife did not long survive the journey. She is remembered as a wonderfully good housekeeper and the very model

*From a record in William Smart's handwriting, dated April 6, 1877, and now in the possession of James J. Smart. For notes on these children, other than Agnes Bain, see Appendix D.

†From a pocket memorandum made by William C. Donald.

‡Agnes (Smart) Donald.

of neatness. James J. Smart writes of her: "She was a very industrious woman and, although of limited advantages herself, ambitious for the education of her children; but in a country as poor as Scotland was seventy-five years ago ambition could accomplish but little. My last year in school she took a special interest in me and examined me closely on my return each day. I appreciated it and used to hurry home. If one of us was starting on a journey and forgot something she was sure to discover it, but instead of calling us back would follow us on the run with it. She was economical, but generous. Not even a beggar was turned from the door *entirely* empty-handed. Her brother John said that 'Jane would starve her children to feed her friends.' In my younger days it was customary for the woman of the house to sweeten the tea before passing it to her guests. I remember once hearing your grandfather joking about it, and saying that mother was getting so economical she tipped the sugar-spoon sideways and let a little run off into the cups." Her death was on the first day of September, 1855,* and she was buried in the Old South Churchyard at Andover.

William consoled himself with a second

*This date is from her tombstone.

Cheldren your father has
geven you all the news and I can only say
that I long to se you all agaen my very
bowls eryns to se you I thenk I shall Com and
you befor I Daiy ff I dont wen to Stop I was
ful in the hop of Comeng last yer but was
Desapointed I had sum thengs boaght
geve my love to all your Famby and
till them of me rember me to Hellen Low
I long to her sumtheng about her Ant Betty
Father Ded at the new yer Send word
what your Daughter mane your Mother

wife, an orphan* from the Orkney Isles. He had a house on Salem Street, where he kept the trimmest of gardens and raised delicious fruits.† He also grew willows with which to weave baskets.‡ His daughter § stopped him from wearing a plaid to church, but he made a picturesque figure, nevertheless, riding about town with his little Highland pony "Jess." He was a great stickler for correct reading of the Bible, and often used to test the ability of his grandchildren in this line. If a word was missed he at once set the culprit right and insisted on the chapter's being begun again.||

As a general rule he was as "dour" as a Scotchman can be. "Agnes," he would say to his daughter, "your tae's sae thin ye cud read the Lord's prayer in the bottom o' the cup." ** On occasion, however, he could unbend. He used sometimes to play himself a monotonous accompaniment on the piano, and sing:

"The Muller was dr-r-ouned in his dam;
The Weaver was hung with his yair-r-n;

* Of no tender age, however. Her name was Elizabeth Irving.

† His strawberries in particular seem to linger in the memories of his favoured grandchildren.

‡ Some of his grandchildren still have baskets made by him.

§ Agnes (Smart) Donald.

|| Statement of Agnes (Donald) Gordon, of Kyoto, Japan.

** Statement of Alice Donald of Andover.

An' the De'il clapped his claw on the little Tailor-r
*Wi' the br-r-aidclaith under his air-r-m."**

Another relaxation was the game of checkers, of which he was passionately fond, provided his opponent would play for a penny a point.*

His second wife was something of a Tartar. When the grandchildren were invited to dinner, if there were not enough of something to go around, she would remark, with a meaning glance at her husband, "Smairt don't eat this." † And yet she had a kindly streak. Her frequent quotation was, "Better belly bur-r-st than good food wasted." When the meal was finished and the children were crammed full, she would sigh and exclaim, "Puir little laddies and lassies, ye 've eaten naething!" ‡

William Smart died January 6, 1878.§ He is described as being of average height, with greenish-blue eyes, a fringe of red whiskers under his chin, and hair which was coal-black to the day of his death. Shortly after he died his wife went back to Scotland.

* Statement of Alice Donald.
† Statement of Fannie (Donald) Smith of Andover.
‡ Statement of Agnes (Donald) Gordon.
§ From his tombstone in the Old South Churchyard at Andover.

I have forgot heps o things I was to tell but my Papper is Don

Mrs William & Mrs Smarts Family

Baptisems

1821 May 20 Aness
1823 January 17 Walter
1825 Catrin Noon 2 age
1827 Jame I May 20
1829 William December 14
1832 John January 22
1835 Alexander December 4
1839 Charles Augest 4 Jamy Kor 1837 Born July 30

Deaths

1 Catrin Noon age 1823
Walter Died 23 Sept 1853
Charles Died 9 July 1866
Mother Died 1 Sept 1855
aged 57 yers

William Smart Born 14 April
1801 1804

Died April 6 1877

William Cooper Donald
and
Agnes Bain Smart

William Cooper Donald
1847 (?)

William Cooper Donald and Agnes Bain Smart

WILLIAM COOPER DONALD was born the 7th of March, 1816, in a little cottage at West Craig, two miles from the town of Forfar. His parents took him to be baptized on the twenty-fifth day of the month.*

When he was four years old the family moved to the neighbouring estate of Westfield, and he could just remember being put up on a horse in front of his father and riding to the new home. Another early recollection was of the great snowstorm of 1822, when he was six years old. Although the country about Forfar abounds in water, there were no wells in those days. Across the road from the cottage was a brook. To this he and his brother James dug a tunnel through a ten-foot drift. While getting some water he had the ill luck to fall backwards into the brook, and possessing but one set of garments at the time, he had to take to his bed while they were being dried. Some time during the day the "Missie"† happened to come in. Hearing of his mishap, she furnished him with some of

*Parish register of Forfar. He himself always spoke of his birth as "the year after the Battle of Waterloo."

†Miss Webster, aunt of Patrick Webster, heir to the Westfield estate.

her young nephew's clothes. This was a bonanza, and the occasion was celebrated by his being taken to church for the first time in them. He said:

"I remember well the first time ever I went to the kirk — the big one on the knoll near Forfar. It was in '22, when I was only six. It's the funniest thing, I can't remember what the text was, but the sermon was about the 'King o' the Jews;' but it wasna o' that I was thinking. My father was a very industrious man, and in the evenings, after the work was done, he used to busy himself wi' making baskets or beehives. We lived in a little house with only one living-room for all of us, and we could n't move without stepping on the willows or straw he was working with; and my! how he would scold! Well, that first day in the kirk I wished that we lived in a house the like o' that, because then we could run around as much as we pleased and never be in any one's way." *

As to the matter of schooling, in common with others of that day, he had but little. Of this little he related:

"When I was about seven years old I went to school to a man named Findlay. He hadna

* This and the succeeding quotations were taken down practically *verbatim.*

any books of any kind and used to make up the 'rithmetic questions. I remember just as well some o' them. One was: 'If it's forty mile from Edinburgh to Glasgow, how many times would a wheel six foot in diameter turn on the way?' Another was a kind of rhyme:

> '*There was a wife an' 't was a wunner,*
> *She lived o' Sabbaths fifty hunner;*
> *How old was the wife?*'

"We used to take the questions down on our slates and then he had to work them out himself, for he had no answer-book like they have now. He was a good old man, but mighty strict. Behind the school was a little back-close. It wasna much of a place, for it had a cow-byre on one side, but we used to play there in vacation.* Sometimes we would wander away. He had a wooden mallet and a kind of a door hung up on the side of the school, and when he wanted us back he would pelt on it. He had three 'tawses'†—two light ones and a heavy one. The heavy one was called 'Granny.' It was a belt slit up the middle for about a foot, and he used to stand by the door and whack us as we came in. I remember one

* Recess.

† "Geordie" Donald refers to a tawse called "Cyclops." See his *Poems*, &c., p. 34 n.

day I thought he 'd kill us, but we rushed him and he was knocked down—and we got in all right. If any one wasna studying he would throw the 'tawse' at him and make him bring it back and get whacked. Once a little fellow called out, 'Wullie Doanut 's lukin' aff his buke.' Old Findlay shouted back, 'If you werena lukin' aff yours, you wouldna see him.' "

Another early recollection was of smugglers. "When I was a boy," he said, "I often used to see a long line of Highland ponies driven by, with a cask of whiskey slung on each side. Sometimes the 'gauger'* would get after them and they 'd turn to the farmers and bury the casks in a field. A good deal of it was lost in this way. Once in a while when the men were ploughing they would strike a keg, and my! it drank just like water! There 's no such stuff now."

He began to work at various places when still very young. One of the first of these places was near Forfar. Of his experience there he said: "I slept in a 'bothie' with three men, and herded the cows. These fellows used to frighten me so that finally I was afraid to go in the woods alone. I had to ride to Forfar on a little pony every night to get the mail.

* Revenue officer.

One night as I was coming along home they dressed up in sheets or something like that and hid in a ditch by the side of the road. All of a sudden they rose up just like ghosts, the pony turned round, and down I come! Another time they put some kettles in a big boiler fastened to the roof, with a rope coming down to one of their beds. In the middle of the night I heard the greatest racket! The men jumped up and rushed about, and finally pulled me out of bed and got me in a corner. 'Ah,' they said, 'Auld Hornie 'most got you that time; but we fought wi' him and drove him aff!' What do you think o' that? And married men, too!"

About 1828 he spent a year at Dunnichen, where, in company with a man named Fairleigh, he worked for a prosperous ex-coachman of the laird's.* Here occurred an incident which he always considered the turning-point of his career. His conduct may not be wholly approved, but he was only a forlorn little boy of twelve. The story he told is as follows: "One day I saw a letter sticking out o' Fairleigh's pocket. I was always kind of a 'cute boy and so I—well, I took it. It was

* This ex-coachman's name was Auld (?) and he lived just north of the Dunnichen church. "Laird" is frequently, as here, used as a synonym for landed proprietor; it does not by any means imply a title.

from a woman in Dundee named Graham.* She used to spend half of her time there and the other half at a place called Balmuir, about four miles out of Dundee. She was just going to start for Balmuir now and wanted to know if Fairleigh could recommend a boy to her. 'Well,' thinks I, 'that's about what I'm looking for,' so I answered the letter and recommended myself! After a while a letter comes back from her to Fairleigh, and he says to me, 'You're kind of a 'cute boy, are n't you?' 'Well,' I said, '"Need makes a naked man run."' 'That's all right,' he said, 'I guess you'll do her well enough.' So off I started for Dundee. It was a long walk, and my! how it did rain! When I got there they treated me very kindly and put me to bed while my clothes dried. So I got the place all right.

"I lived there for about a year and then was wanted by some relatives of theirs at a place called 'Pearsie,' about four miles north of Kirriemuir. When it came to start I had to take one of the horses and a woman along from Dundee. She rode behind me and had something to sit on. but I did n't. I remember

* These Grahams were related to John Graham of Claverhouse, whose portrait they had in their attic at Balmuir. William C. Donald said: "The whole family were passionate like him. The woman of the house was fat, and when she got angry, my! how her neck would swell!"

just as well how sore I got. She lay all over me! Finally, after we had gone fifteen or sixteen miles, we came to a watering-trough at the top of a little divide, and I got off. When I got on again I came back good and hard on her and was comfortable the rest of the way."

While at "Pearsie" he used to go to church in Kirriemuir. At this church they kept the grave-clothes in a bundle on one of the roof beams. One Sunday an old bald-headed man sitting near by went sound asleep. All of a sudden a loud snore drew the eyes of the entire congregation to him. At that instant, as though caused by the concussion, the grave-clothes fell on top of his head, and the youthful William got to laughing so that he had to go out.

About 1832 he was apprenticed to a miller in Craig Eassie, parish of Tannadice, and worked at his trade there for the next four or five years. He then moved to Farnell, where he worked for a miller named William Robinson. Robinson was a hard master; but his wife was kind, and had a charming young sister with whom young William took many a pleasant tramp to Arbroath, spending the night with her parents. These latter, at one time, considered their daughter's future assured, but "Wullie" was canny. In addition to running Robinson's mill he had to do some

farming and feed seventy or eighty pigs. A fierce fight with Robinson, who asked on coming home one day, "Is *that* all the len'th ye've got?" and was told it was "a damn *good* len'th," was only settled by the intercession of Robinson's wife and the payment to "Wullie" of two pounds sterling!

By this time he had become quite a singer and used often to take the precentor's place. A farmer in the neighbourhood undertook to make fun of him in some doggerel verses posted on the mill and blacksmith-shop. William had not inherited his father's gift for "rustic song," but his brother "Geordie" had, and was living not far away. A visit to him secured the following philippic which, when counter-posted, seems to have settled for the farmer:

> "*I ken I'm but a sound i' th' kirk*
> *At singin' psalms an' sic like wark*
> *To e'en wha comes sae aft to hark,*
> *An' fu' o' zeal;*
> *An' e'en all Clutie's course can mark*
> *An' bogle till.*"

[*Here ensues a polite consignment of the offender "to Pluto black," and the following descriptive stanza:*]

> "*An' there you'll see them as they are,*
> *Where Be'lzebub wi' his iron car*

A hellish legion drives to war
'Gainst such as thee,
Wha aften tried my (fame) to mar
*Wi' mony a lee."**

That the farmer's opinion was not the opinion of the majority, may be gathered from the fact that at the end of his service the congregation presented our young man with a silver snuff-box, on one side of which was a mill, and on the other a large concourse of people led by him in an outburst of song.†

About this time he first met his future wife, Agnes Bain Smart. She was born in Farnell, May 20, 1821.‡ Of her early life James J. Smart writes as follows: "As a child she spent most of her time with her grandparents, the Johnstons. So strong was her attachment to them that after her grandmother's death, when she went back to her father and mother, she was homesick for a long time. Once in the night she was found crying in bed, and when her mother tried to comfort her, sobbingly exclaimed, 'Oh, if grandma were alive I would n't be here!'

"Later on she went to school in Brechin, walking about two and a half miles night and

* Dictated by William C. Donald.
† This snuff-box was lost before he came to America.
‡ Parish register of Farnell.

morning with her brother Walter and me. We went to a Mr. Powers, and Agnes to the Misses Summerville's school, where, in addition to the English branches, fine sewing and embroidery were taught. After leaving school she went to Montrose to live with the family of Walter Leighton, a cousin. He was a watchmaker and jeweller, mercenary and cold-blooded. She used to tell how she was rationed out and not allowed at the table with the family. She was given a ha'-penny ('bawbee') a day for milk, and when she needed a spool of thread or a needle she invested in buttermilk at half price and made it last two days.

"When she left Montrose she went to live with the minister's family at the Manse of Farnell, where William C. Donald first made her acquaintance. I first saw him when I was in my tenth year (1837). I had gone to herd cattle for a John Rodgers, who was the leader of the music at Farnell or, as he was called, precentor. Your grandfather was a noted singer in those days, and during the summer he made a visit to Mr. Rodgers and they did some singing together. After he had gone I was told by Mary Rodgers who he was and that he was likely to become my brother-in-law, which fact was later accomplished."

The story of their marriage has been well

Farnell Churchyard

told by their eldest son,* who at their golden wedding read the following: "About fifty years ago, midway between the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland, in the little town of Farnell, lived Agnes Smart. Her grandfather Johnston having died a short time before, his farm, stock and other effects were being sold at auction. Agnes attended the sale, and there for the first time met the man she married. She says he was the funniest-looking chap she ever saw. He was a miller by trade and therefore wore a light fustian suit that would not show the dust. He wore a tall black hat; his cheeks were very red and his eyes very black; and mother confesses that with some of her girl friends she giggled at him.† Father was then living a few miles away, and it happened shortly afterward that mother went to the same place to live,‡ and they both attended the same kirk. The library

*William A. Donald of Boston.

† Despite the giggles, he must have been extremely handsome. A later auction sale at Black Hall was the occasion of a great compliment to him. He said: "I was always kind of bashful-like, but I had managed to buy something. The auctioneer called out, 'Where's the Muller o' Black Ha'?' So I stepped forward. He took a good look at me and asked me if I was married. I told him no, and he said, 'Well, here's your stuff; and let me gie ye a bit o' advice, young man: if I was you I'd *never* ask a lassie unless I wanted her.'"

‡ As a matter of fact they had both been in Farnell for some time, but had not happened to meet. Agnes lived with the family of the minister, Rev. Mr. Brewster. The manse was separated from the mill only by a small stream. William C. Donald said: "She and I were

was in the minister's house, and mother was often there. Father became very literary and was always going to the minister's for books; with much anxiety, nevertheless, for fear the minister and his wife might question him and find out how very little he knew of their contents. He managed to see Agnes, however, every time, and I should say that affairs progressed favourably with them, for in a very short time they were engaged and mother went back to her own home* to make preparations for her marriage."

Here must be inserted a story connected with their marriage license. To obtain this, the prospective groom and the bride's father went to Brechin. After completing their mission, they went into a public house for some refreshment. A little dwarf named Jeanie filled their glasses and each took a drink. Both recognized that something was wrong with it. "Jeanie, Jeanie," they called, "what's this ye've gi'en us?" "Losh preserve 's," she exclaimed, as she came hurrying in, "if it isna Epsom salts!"

always kind o' making signs to each other. Once I was sowing some barley and when the seed ran short, without thinking, I got some kiln-dried stuff to finish the job. Of course it didn't come up. After a while Robinson said to me, 'Wullie, I guess you were flirtin' wi' Agnes when you forgot this patch.' Well, I guess I was."

*Saint Ann's Cottage.

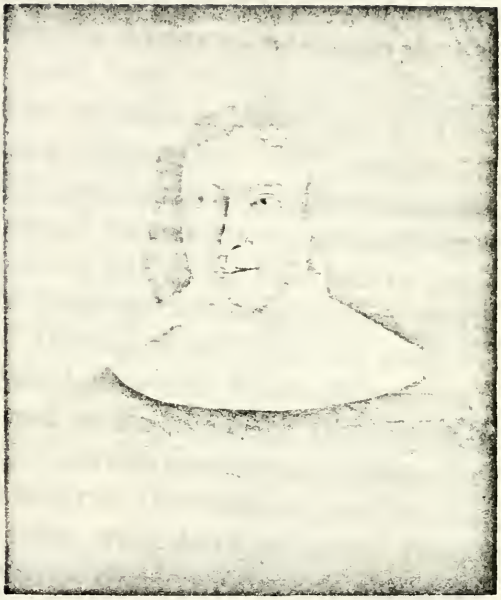
"When the wedding day arrived* father sent a friend of his, a Mr. Webster,† in an open wagon for his bride. It was not thought good form for a young couple to go together to the minister's. Mother was dressed in an English print, tan-coloured, with a little figure dotted all over it, made low in the neck, short-waisted, and with very full, long sleeves. She also wore a broad muslin kerchief and collar, embroidered by herself, around her neck and a peach-coloured cottage bonnet with wide strings tied under her dainty chin. Grandfather Smart and uncle Walter also went with her, grandmother not being able to go, as uncle Charlie was a baby a few weeks old. The minister, Mr. Foote, lived in Brechin, about halfway between mother's house and the new home in Black Hall that father had provided.‡ At the minister's, father was seen arrayed in a bright blue coat with brass buttons, a figured waistcoat and fawn-coloured pantaloons. A friend of his and his two sisters were with him, and after the simple ceremony they all got into wagons and rode to the new home.§ Mother,

* September 13, 1839. Here continues William A. Donald's narrative.
† William C. Donald said his "best man" was Joseph Walker.
‡ The mill at Black Hall which the young husband undertook to manage had been leased from his old employer, William Robinson. It was about two miles north of Brechin, on a stream called The Crook.
§ William C. Donald said they walked.

with the same forethought she has always shown, had already prepared a supper of cold meats, tea, biscuit and sponge cake which she had sent there with her other belongings.

"On their arrival the door flew open and an old fiddler came out, followed by father's father, mother, sisters, cousins and aunts; a noisy greeting followed. A handkerchief was placed over mother's peach-bloom bonnet and her new mother-in-law took an immense tea-biscuit and broke it in pieces over her head as a token that there might always be plenty. Then supper was eaten and the health of the bride and groom was drunk in good Scotch whiskey. Afterwards there was dancing in the barn, the old fiddler doing his best to keep things lively. Mother, however, did not approve of the dancing (she has not said whether she approved of the whiskey or not, or whether she drank any, and I did n't dare ask her whether father did), neither did she enter into the frivolities. Perhaps a vision of the fifty years to follow, so crowded full of hopes and cares and children, may have subdued the little maiden."

On March 1, 1841, a daughter was born to them who was named Fannie Smart. Not long afterwards they moved to Craig Eassie, parish of Tannadice, where another daughter, Isabella, was born, December 20, 1842. About



Agnes Bain Smart
1841(?)

this time the question of emigrating to the United States came up. They knew a family of Smiths who were about to make the venture, led thereto by the success of their cousins John and Peter in Andover. At length the decision was made, their cottage given up, and they spent two months in the village of Tannadice while arranging for their passage.

During this interim the young father sought to line his pouch somewhat by conducting a singing-school up the glen. This was in connection with leading the congregation there on Sundays. During these trips he used to stay at a public house kept by an old woman. When she had to be away for the day she would put out a certain amount of whiskey for her husband to serve. On returning she would say, "Well, John, what have ye got?" John, who never spared the bowl himself and who had a kind heart for his guest, would reply, "A tipplin' o' change, but no money." The singing (because of, or in spite of, the refreshment) was a success. On the first Sunday the church was packed and women were sitting on the steps of the precentor's desk. At the conclusion of the service an ancient dame approached the young incumbent and exclaimed, "I havena heard the kirk o' Lethnot sung so well these fifty year!"

Finally arrangements were completed for the journey. The ship in which they embarked was of two hundred eighty-seven tons burden, and was scheduled to sail the 4th of May, 1844. Together with the Smiths they were rated as eight and two-thirds adults, and the passage money for the party was twenty-nine pounds.* Four pounds was required as a deposit, and the balance had to be paid before sailing. The receipt for this balance is dated May 29, which is probably the date on which

* A copy of their contract is as follows:

"SHIP NILE of 287 Tons Register Burden to sail from Dundee for New York on the 4 day of May 1844.

Names	*Ages*	*Equal to Statute Adults*
MR. SMITH	44	
MARY	40	
GEORGE	17	
HELEN	11	4 1-3
DAVID	9	
JOHN	6	
WM. DONALD	29	
AGNES	23	2 1-3
FANNY	3	
INFANT	—	
GION (?) SMITH	42	
JEAN	40	2
INFANT		
		8 2-3

I engage that the parties herein named shall be provided with a Steerage Passage to New York in the ship NILE, with not less than ten cubic feet for luggage for each Statute Adult, for the sum of £29 including head money, if any, at the place of landing, and every other charge; and I hereby acknowledge to have received the sum of £—— in part payment. Water ~~and provisions~~ according to the annexed scale will be supplied by the ship, as required by law, and also fires and suitable hearths for cooking.

Utensils for eating and drinking will be provided by Passengers.

Bedding will be provided by Passengers also provisions.

DEPOSIT £ 4 SIGNATURE, *perpro* W. CLARK.

BALANCE £25 to be paid at Dundee before the ship sails.

TOTAL £29 *paid in full.* DATE, 29 *May* 1844.

W. C.

W. A."

William Cooper Donald
1865 (?)

they actually sailed. By the terms of their contract water was to be furnished by the ship, also fires and hearths; but the passengers had to supply their own bedding, provisions and utensils.

This is father's account of the voyage: "We sailed from Dundee on the good ship Nile, Captain Yule, bound for New York. The trip took eight weeks. There were forty-two of us altogether and all in the steerage. We hung up curtains to separate the salt herring from the gingerbread.* The voyage was n't a bad one except for the water. There were two great boilers full of it in case of an emergency; but what we drank was kept in casks on deck. After a while it got pretty rank, I tell you! and I was deputed to go to the Captain about it. So I went up to him and asked if we could n't have what was in the boilers instead. 'Why,' says he, 'that's nothing to the water I've seen; I've seen it when you could n't cut it with a knife!' 'I wish to God you had a week of it now,' I answered, and went back to the rest. It's a wonder I wasna put in irons!

"There was one very nice old man on board with his family. At meal times he used

* Evidently the Donalds and the Smiths regarded themselves as of the second group.

to get them all around him on deck and mix up porridge in a pot. Then he would take off his hat, shut his eyes, and ask a blessing. One day while he was up to that the ship gave a roll and when he opened his eyes the pot was gone. How we all laughed!

"We used to have a Scotch concert every night on deck and I always sang them a solo. I was quite a singer in those days."

One other story of their voyage, primitive but honest, must be recorded. An old woman in an upper berth was thrown from her bunk during a terrible storm. "Lord preserve 's," she exclaimed; "we struck bottom that time, sure!"

For five days they were becalmed off the Banks, during which time they caught large quantities of codfish. Arriving in New York, the family had a sharp encounter with some land-sharks who overcharged them for a meal and stole the father's best hat. A Scotch cap, however, supplied this deficiency, and they immediately reëmbarked for Norwich, Connecticut. Thence they came by rail to Boston, and so to Andover, spending their first night with the Leightons in Abbott Village.

The End

Appendices

Appendix A

Summary of Searches in Local Records of Scotland

Summary of Searches in Local Records of Scotland

NAME	PLACE	RECORD	DATES
Donald	Aberlemno	*Parish Register*	Births: 1744–1770; 1778–1786; 1811–1819
	Airlie	*Parish Register*	Births and Marriages: 1720–1760
	Alyth	*Parish Register*	Marriages: 1720–1760
	Cortachy & Clova	*Parish Register*	Baptisms and Marriages: 1662–1770
		Parish Register	Deaths: 1751–1770
	Dunnichen	*Parish Register*	Births and Marriages: 1810–1819
	Forfar	*Sheriff Court*	1594–1700
		Parish Register	Births: 1735–1760; 1778–1788; 1805–1819
	Kirriemuir	*Parish Register*	Births: 1740–1770
	Oathlaw	*Parish Register*	Births: 1747–1762; 1778–1786; 1811–1819
	Rescobie	*Parish Register*	Births: 1730–1761; 1778–1786; 1811–1819
	Tannadice	*Parish Register*	Births and Marriages: 1742–1819
Rickard	Kirriemuir	*Parish Register*	Births: 1740–1770
Laird	Aberlemno	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1744–1770
	Dunnichen	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1747–1760; 1777–1804
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1746–1753
	Forfar	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1735–1760
	Kirriemuir	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1740–1770
	Oathlaw	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1747–1762
	Rescobie	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1730–1761
	Tannadice	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1742–1760
Shepherd	Aberlemno	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1744–1770
	Dunnichen	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1683–1804
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1683–1800
	Forfar	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1633–1723; 1735–1760
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1633–1723
		Sheriff Court	1594–1700
		Hornings & Inhibitions (*vol.* 45)	1733–1745
	Kirriemuir	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1740–1770
	Oathlaw	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1747–1762
	Rescobie	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1730–1761
	Tannadice	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1742–1760
Smart	Aberlemno	*Parish Register*	Baptisms and Marriages: 1750–1780
	Brechin	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1744–1815; 1820–1823
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1783–1794; 1796–1800; 1817–1

NAME	PLACE	RECORD	DATES
Smart [*continued*]	Dun	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1750–1780
			Marriages: 1785–1792
	Dundee	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1796–1800; 1820–1821
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1796–1800
		Parish Register	Deaths: 1818–1822
	Farnell	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1746–1761
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1797–1824
	Logiepert	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1750–1780
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1792
	Maryton	*Parish Register*	Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths: 1727–1790 (*Marriages blank*, 1783–1793)
	Menmuir	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1758–1780 (*blank*, 1745–1758)
	Montrose	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1750–1780
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1787–1792
	Stracathro	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1750–1780
	Tannadice	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1720–1780
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1720–1734; 1756–1762
Johnston	Brechin	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1744–1780; 1796–1823
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1796–1800; 1817–1823
	Dun	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1750–1780
	Dundee	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1796–1800; 1820–1821
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1796–1800
		Parish Register	Deaths: 1818–1822
	Farnell	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1730–1770
		Parish Register	Baptisms and Marriages: 1797–1824
	Logiepert	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1750–1780
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1792
	Maryton	*Parish Register*	Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths: 1727–1790 (*Marriages blank*, 1783–1793)
	Menmuir	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1750–1780 (*blank*, 1745–1758)
	Montrose	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1750–1780
	Stracathro	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1750–1780
	Tannadice	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1743–1780
	Tearn	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1762–1780
Bain	Brechin	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1744–1780; 1800–1803
	Dun	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1750–1780
	Logiepert	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1750–1780
		Parish Register	Marriages: 1792
	Maryton	*Parish Register*	Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths: 1727–1790 (*Marriages blank*, 1783–1793)
	Tearn	*Parish Register*	Baptisms: 1762–1780

Appendix B

Notes on the Children of Alexander Donald and Mary Laird

JAMES DONALD was born at Forfar 8th Aug. 1815 (1810?). We know very little of his early life, till the time when he went to Dundee in 1833, where he was apprenticed, and where he stayed three years. He then entered the service of Sir Charles Lyell, who procured his admission to Chiswick (Royal Horticultural Society) in 1839. Here he was a student for another three years, during two seasons of which he was botanical collector for Dr. Lindley's lectures at University College. For twelve months he worked under Sir Joseph Paxton. After this he went back to Chiswick as temporary superintendent of the hot-house department, the duties of which office he discharged so much to the satisfaction of the Council of the Society that, on his leaving, they awarded him a handsome gratuity.

From this time until 1856 he served Sir William Lawrence, Sir Robert Peel and J. G. Barclay, Esq. In 1856 he was appointed superintendent of the Royal Gardens at Hampton Court, which post he held till his death in 1872.

He was an enthusiastic botanist and geologist, possessed remarkable intellectual capabilities, and was also wonderfully neat and clever with his hands. In manner he was always exceedingly quiet and unassuming. He left behind him a large and valuable collection of dried plants, fossils, &c., a good part of which is at present in the Jermyn Street Museum in London. [*Contributed by his son*, ANDREW DONALD *of Birmingham, England.*]

ISOBEL DONALD was born about 1812, married John MacDonald, and lived at Kingsmuir. She left no descendants.

Mary Donald was born about 1814, and married Charles Kidd. She also is believed to have left no descendants.

Peter Donald died young, on the 17th of September, 1830. [*From a letter of* George W. Donald's.]

George W. Donald, a song writer of no inconsiderable merit, was born on the 2nd April, 1820, in a cottage on the estate of Westfield, near Forfar. . . . Through an accident in childhood, the poet was deprived of the proper use of his right limb, and became a confirmed cripple. Confined to the fireside by this accident, he early learned to read, and having an ear for music, listened with delight to the scraps of ballad and song with which his mother sought to comfort him. . . . While tending his father's cattle, the youthful poet continued to foster his taste for music and song. His verses were sung by his brothers and sisters at social gatherings; and expressions of praise prompted him to more ambitious efforts. In his thirteenth year he was apprenticed to the loom. During the intervals of leisure he prosecuted various studies and composed songs.

In 1843 he was appointed to the charge of a non-parochial school near the village of Dunnichen, from which he was preferred to the more lucrative office of schoolmaster at Kingsmuir in the same parish. Having acquired a systematic acquaintance with the art of teaching at one of the Normal Seminaries, Mr. Donald was, in 1847, elected teacher of a school at Tarfside, Lochlee, under the superintendence of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge. In 1852 he removed to the Society's school at Luthermuir, parish of Marykirk. This situation he resigned in 1858 with the view of proceeding to America; but abandoning his intention, he taught an adventure school at Forfar, and subsequently at Dunnichen and at Drunkendub, St. Vigeans.

Removing to Arbroath in 1862, he there supported himself by tuition and basket-making. In September, 1866, he was appointed to the keepership of Arbroath Abbey, a post of respectable emolument, and otherwise suited to his tastes.

Mr. Donald published a small volume of poems in 1854. His more recent work, entitled "Poems, Ballads and Songs," Arbroath, 1867, post 8vo, contains many poetical compositions indicating vigorous thought and lively fancy. Several of his songs have attained local celebrity, and are entitled to an honourable place in the national minstrelsy. [*From the Preface to* George W. Donald's "*Poems*," *&c.*]

Alexander Donald, after serving an apprenticeship to the gardening, got a situation as gardener and forester, or rather estate manager, to the late H. Graham, Esq., W. S., at Belstane, twelve miles west of Edinburgh. On the death of this gentleman twenty-two years afterwards, he came to Edinburgh, and finally took a lease of the Royal Terrace Gardens, almost opposite to the house we live in (7 Blenheim Place), and set up on his own account as "Gardener and Florist." He died on the 2nd May twelve years ago (*i.e.* 1893), and was seventy-two years of age or thereabouts. He was twenty-two years here in business for himself. [*Contributed by his daughter*, Jessie Harvey *of Edinburgh, Scotland.*]

Jessie Donald died at about the age of twenty, unmarried.

David Donald *has kindly written of himself as follows:*

In answer to your inquiries I shall do my best, but my memory fails me; and little wonder at my great age, which will be eighty years on the 6th of August next.

When I left Westdrumpark I was about seventeen years of age. I could see there was no chance of making

headway in that neighbourhood, so I engaged myself to go to Tealing House, five miles from Dundee, to work in the garden. After being there for some time, I went to a larger establishment at Fotheringham where I could gain more information in horticulture. There I remained for two years. My next change was to Edinburgh, where I was employed in the garden of Sir John McNiel for two years. My last move in Scotland was to Mavis Bank, six miles north of Edinburgh. That was in 1850.

In 1851 was the great exhibition in London which I was anxious to see, and my brother James recommended me to Joseph Gurney Barclay of Walthamstow, giving me an opportunity of coming to London, which I was glad to accept, as it gave me a chance of seeing the Exhibition, now known as the "Crystal Palace."

In 1855 my brother James was appointed superintendent of Hampton Court Gardens, and I was appointed to the charge of Knotts Green Gardens, Leyton, Essex, with the same J. G. Barclay, into whose service I entered when I first came to London, and in which I remained for forty-eight years, until his death. After this, his estate was sold and there was no longer any use for me.

On January 1st 1857 I was married. Now my wife and I are settled down in this comfortable home with sufficient to keep the wolf from the door. All I do is a little surveying of house property and valuation when it comes in the way, which is more of an amusement to me than anything else, and keeps me from rusting out.

If these notes are of any use to your friend and my friend, Donald Gordon, I shall be very pleased.

Your affectionate Father,

D. Donald

68 *Beulah Road*, *June* 8, 1905

Appendix C

Notes on the Children of William Johnston and Agnes Bain

MOTHER was the only one of her family that did not die of consumption. Her brother William lived the longest besides her. He was what was called a 'grieve' or manager of a large estate. The next was John, who spent five years to learn the carpenter's trade, but died under thirty years of age. Walter, the youngest boy, learned the draper's business, but had to serve three or four years for simply board, to get the chance. Katherine died a young woman. Margaret married a James Low. After her death he came to Andover with his only child, a girl, who died there of consumption. I remember all the children except Helen. James I knew only slightly, but all the others very well." JAMES J. SMART.

Appendix D

Notes on the Children of William Smart and Jean Johnston

WALTER was an engineer in a sugar factory in Cuba, and died there, September 25, 1853. James Johnston has been a printer and a farmer on a large scale at Bonniebrae Farm, Humboldt, Iowa, and is now in Minneapolis. William went to Australia with his brother John and was for a long time associated with him in wool-growing, with headquarters at Melbourne. Alexander has been in the railroad business, and is now station-agent at Perry, Iowa. Fanny died January 14, 1841. Charles, "dux of his class" at the Edinburgh High School, was for a time a clerk in Hogg, Brown and Taylor's, in Boston (now the James A. Houston Company); then went into the business of manufacturing buttons, and died of consumption July 9, 1865.

Appendix E

Miscellaneous Letters

Westdrumpark Nov. 13th 1844

DEAR SON: I take this opportunity of writing you as I am informed that the packet sails on the 15th of this month. I have in the first place to return you my best thanks for your kind letter which I received in due time after date. We were all happy to hear that you had got over the wide waves of the Ocean in safety. George received a news-paper a considerable time before I had my letter and Charles Kydd one much about the same time that I had the letter from you. As we are all moving about in much the same manner as we were when you left we have very little to state with regard to any change which has taken place in our circumstances. . . . We received a letter from William Smart the other day stating that they were all well and that they wished us to give you their best respects he received your letter and will give you an answer after the term. He likewise wishes us to inform you that William Johnston is no more.

Mother wishes you to send word in your next letter what way Agnes and the children like your new place of abode.

I am your Father *&c.*

ALEXR DONALD

Westdrumpark 7 *Jany* 1845

MY DEAR SON, I take this opportunity of sending you a few lines with a certain person who is coming to your country. We are all well at this time and have had a very merry *Yule* and hope that these few lines will find you and your family in good health and spirits. We have few news to send you only Mr. Ford precentor Forfar is

Mother wishes you to send
word in your next letter what
they Agnes and the Children
like your new place of abode.

I am your Father
&c
Alexr Donald

now dead and that James Robertson's Fannell had a daughter killed some time ago by a cart falling down upon her. We have no time more to write you as the man leaves immeately only we are extremly anxious to hear from you and think that you have not surely gotten our litter.

Yours

A. Donald
Mary Laird

Mr. William Donald
Ballard-Vale, Andover

Westdrumpark 17th *Septr* 1845

My dear Son, I take this opportunity of letting you know that we are all well at present, fondly hoping in the kind providence of God that these few lines will find you and your family all in a similar state. We received your kind letter in due time after its date and were all extremely happy to hear from you—and I must say that I do rejoice much to learn that you are getting on so well in that far country where it has been your fortune to settle—and getting bread for yourself and family.

I went to George Ewans as you desired me to give him your compliments but when I went he seemed not to listen to what I said and I did not stay to obtrude myself upon him. . . .

I am yours sincerely,

Alexander Donald

Dear Brother, It gives me much pleasure to think, that you have got settled in a place of the New World, where the minds of the people are so much enlightened above those of the old. Were I to come to America, perhaps, if I could not give any body a lesson, I would have an opportunity of receiving one myself. How-

ever I can say that I am still doing well, thinking well, and cosequently thriving well here. May you all be doing the same.

G. Donald

DEAR Sister Brother &c I take up my pen to return you my most sincere thanks for the kind mention you made of me in your last letter, and it gives me much pleasure to think that fortune has been so kind to you in that strange land to which you have gone, and that things are prospring so well with you, and that the grace of God is still attending you all. You spoke in your last letter of your American Music. I would be very happy to received anything of this nature from your hand as David and me sometimes try a tune together, when we can find a spare hour.

I shall send you a Newspaper in about the matter of a fortnight after the date of this letter. Meanwhile I remain

Yours Sincerely

Ale^r S Donald Junr

DEAR Brother, I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines, in the space which is alloted for me. As I have a Question or two to put to you, which I hope you will be able to answer by this time. I would wish to know if there be any of those insects which are spoken of in history, that torment the natives of your new countries by going into their feet &c, and likewise, if the land of your destrict be worth cultivating. . . .

I am well and in the unbounded goodness of *God* I hope these few lines will find you all the same. I am

Yours,

David Donald

Dear Son

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Dear Son Daughter and little ones,

I am happy to know that you are all well and doing well. I had a visit from your mother lately and we were very happy together for sometime as long as she could remain with me. And I found that we were both proude of the name of your Child. And I send you this ribbonde as it is all that can be conveniently sent with a letter as a token of regard from her Grandmother of Lownie Muir and may the blessing of God rest upon you all.

I am your affectionate Mother
Mary Laird

(Write soon)

[Geo. W. Donald *to* Wm. C. Donald, *dated* "*Westdrum Park*, 23 *Nov.*, 1846"]

. . . Mother is not very well and is very anxious to hear from you as soon as possible. . . . Father is much in his ordinary way but sometimes troubled with the "*pains.*" . . .

DEAR Son Daughter and little ones, I am happy to know that you are all well and doing well. I had a visit from your mother lately and we were very happy together for sometime as long as she could remain with me. And I found that we are both proude of the name of your Child. And I send you this ribband as it is all that can be conveniently sent with a letter as a token of regard from her Grandmother of *Lownie Muir* and may the blessing of God rest upon you all.

I am your affectionate Mother

Mary Laird

(Write soon.)

Andover sep 1852

DEAR Mother I take up my pen to write you a few lins to let know that I have not forgot you we received yours and Charls leter in due time and and was both glad and Soory at one time glad to learn that so many of you was enjoing health and very Soory to think Father was so poorly, as fore me my husband and fammely we was very much disispointed when we found we must give the thought of seeing you all this fall, when we goot John's letter and understood your letter had ben lost I did fell very bad it was the first time since I left home I ever let my self think it was posibule you could come and see me but I did wish then I could see my Mother do you think Father would have come in the spring if we had sent any encouragement William and me thinks it would be fore the best fore you all to come but we dare not pres the

matter to far only it has ben well for us that we came when we did. we had to mak a hard strugal, Walter is to leave tomorow again, he seems to make out very well as regards money maters, but it [Cuba] has a deadning influance on his eternull intrests there is no Sabath no Bibel as you may judge what soceity is with Slavery in there stead, I hope when you write to him you will warn him of his danger, and ingratitude in foregeting the comand of a merceifull and kind, but a just God, ye shall keep my sabeths and reverance my santuary I am the Lord. . . .

[*Unsigned*]

Agness wants me to say she is so taken up with her little daughter that she cannot finsh her letter, we shall write you soon and tell you all the news.

Adiew,

Wm C. Donald

we are to move into our new house on the 23 of this month we have let our house (without the land) for £11 I am to cultivate the land myself and cover it all over with frute trees.

Wm C. D

Newyork Jany 24 1853

My Dear Wiffe & Chieldren I am still in this great city, and I supose you will be wondering how pap has not written you a long letter, but I have been so bissy about my mission here, that I have not had time, but altho I have not written you I have not forgotten you I expect to be home this week I would say to mother I hope the Lord will strenthen you for the great responcibielity that is resting upon you espechely when I am gon and Chieldren be kind to your mother and provoke her to love and good work. I hope you had a good sabbath and the Lord's presence with you I went and herd a *babtist* min-

ester afternoon and evening he is as faithfull a man as ever I herd the evening meeting was trueley refresshing the good Britherin was all alive and ocupyed e Hos my love to little Walter give him a sweet little on for me tell Elijah to behave himself and all the rest and I my bring som candy or something els. I hope you have Mrs Scrimguor with you and that she is well. I have not time to tell you any thing more

but remain your affectly

Wm C Donald

Hay Lodge ner pieples 21 *April* 1853

My Dear Agness & William I Dar Say you will think I have Been Loang of thanking you fer your kind inviation to come out but rely oinging to Willm & John being all in figet of Astrilia we could not make up our minds to com away but now thay thay are a way and left us which you will get the New a bout them in James Scral it is too tidees to repet a gain. We are liking this place pretty well but we think ofen of you all being so far a way if looks like as if there had Been a Death in the house or as the Clock Stood still after Will & John went away thay gave us all the comforts thay could and said thay would soon be Back and keep us lang a our Days but still that do not Despell that glomy Cloud that over hings and Make us think we are left a lon but we Must not dispair but hop in the Best and we may see some of you yet. . . . I do not know what I could be employed at in your place. I am not so willing to travel mils to a Job and Jump ten hours on a Spad . . . remember Us to All the littel ones and may thay grow in grace as thay grow in years and may god Bless us all is the Ernest prayr of your afectnat father

Willm Smart

My Der Cheldren your father has geven you all the news

and I can only say that I long to see you all again my very bowls eryns to se you I thenk I shall Com and you befor I Daiy if I don't win to Stop I was ful in the hop of Comeng last yer but was Desapointed I had sum thengs bought geve my love to all your Famly and till them of me remember me to Hellen Lowe I long to her sumtheng about her Aunt Betty Father Ded at the new yer. Send werd what your Daughtrs name

Your
MOTHER

Westdrumpark 12 *Sep*r 1858

DEAR SON & DAUGHTER, I take this opportunity of writing to you as we are getting exceedingly anxious to hear from you. . . . There is little alteration among your relations here only Aunty Bell Mrs. Scott died at Arbrcath some time ago David has got a wife who has had a son to him lately James is Superintendant to the Queen in Hampton Court so you will see that he is well up the water. He and his wife are exceedingly kind to us as well as Alexander and his wife For we are now so frail and worn out that we are able to make little shift for ourselves Isabella & John McDonald an Charles Kidd and Mary are all well George is teaching in Forfar. We feel the want of Jessie very much. . . . I am Dear Son your affectionate

Father
ALEXR DONALD

Hampton Court Palace, London, April 9 1861

MY DEAR UNCLE [WILLIAM C. DONALD] . . . We were all in Scotland about eighteen months ago. . . . We spent a fortnight at Westdrum Park. During that time I saw Aunt Isabella, John McDonald, Aunt Mary, Charles Kidd, Uncle Alexander from Edinburgh, & Uncle George

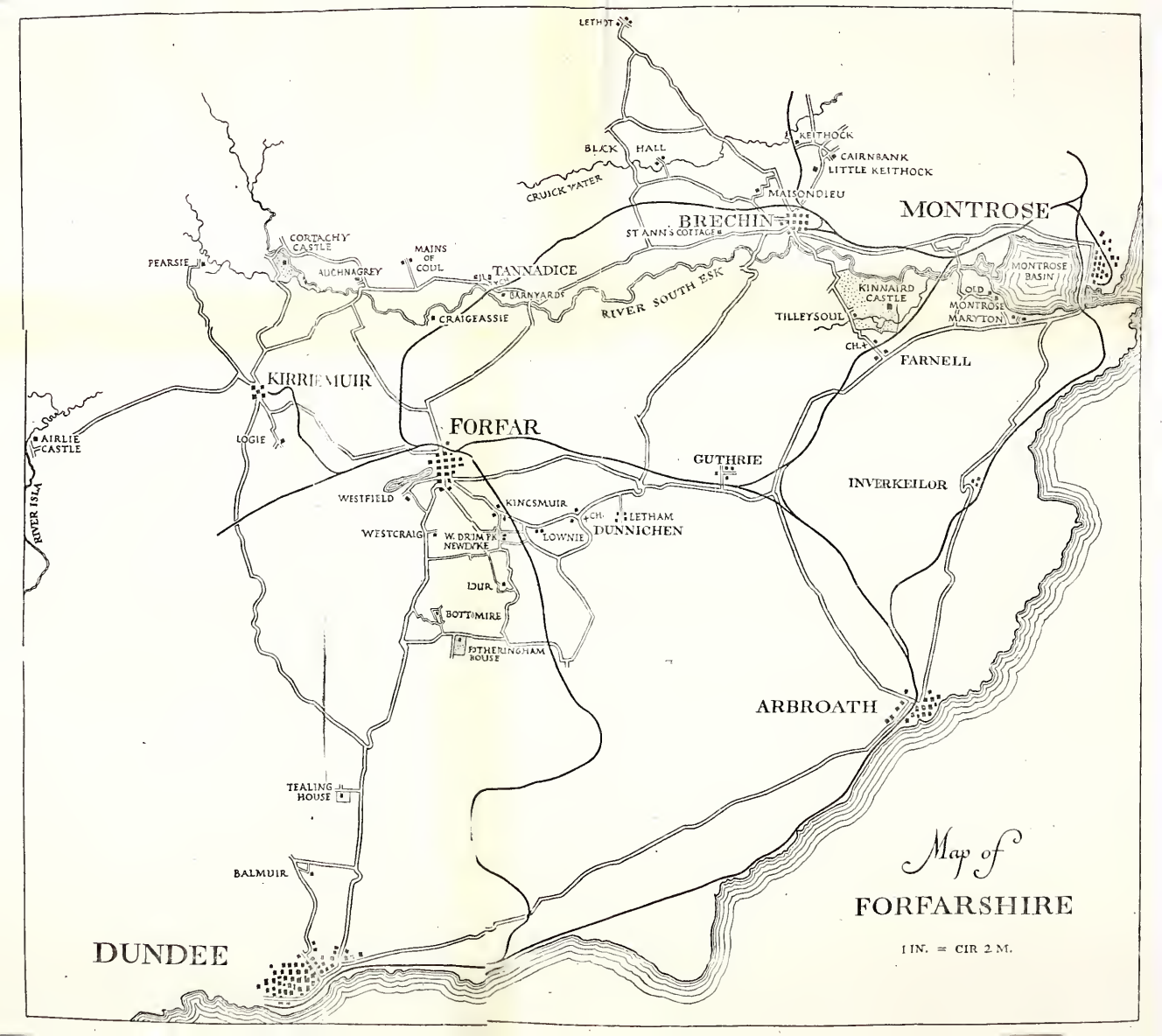
and his family. We also went to Tealing to see William Malcom now in his 99 year and to Glammis to see father's Uncle, James Laird, since dead. Uncle David who succeeded father at Leyton in Essex, went to Forfar with us, so, you will understand it was a regular meeting of *Donalds*. The old house was nearly full indeed Grandmother said, "we'r' a' here noo that are alive; but Willie an' his family." . . . Alass! the Donalds will never again meet in the old house at Westdrum Park. It is all pulled down now and Grandfather and Grandmother are now living in a house at King's Muir. Poor old bodies; it is the "Glommin" of life with them. . . .

Your Affectionate Nephew

JAMES DONALD

P S. . . . I forgot to state in my letter that I am 10 years of age next month.

J. D.


LETHOT
KEITHOCK
CAIRNBANK
LITTLE KEITHOCK
BLACK HALL
CRUICK WATER
MAISONDIEU
MONTROSE
BRECHIN
ST ANN'S COTTAGE
CORTACHY CASTLE
MAINS OF COUL
PEARSIE
AUCHNAGREY
TANNADICE
BARNYARDS
RIVER SOUTH ESK
CRAIGEASSIE
KINNAIRD CASTLE
MONTROSE BASIN
OLD MONTROSE
MARYTON
TILLEYSOUL
CH.
FARNELL
KIRRIEMUIR
FORFAR
AIRLIE CASTLE
LOGIE
GUTHRIE
INVERKEILOR
RIVER ISLA
WESTFIELD
KINGSMUIR
CH.
LETHAM
WESTCRAIGS
W. DRIMPA
NEWDYKE
LOWNIE
DUNNICHEN
IDUR
BOTTOMIRE
FOTHERINGHAM HOUSE
ARBROATH
TEALING HOUSE
BALMUIR
DUNDEE
Map of
FORFARSHIRE
1 IN. = CIR 2 M.

1852